

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Saint Croix National Scenic River

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: SACN

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, one of the eight original Wild and Scenic Rivers encompassing over 200 miles of the beautiful St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers, will serve as a regional leader in natural and cultural resources stewardship. The Riverway will provide meaningful and effective environmental education and provide a range of recreational opportunities to new as well as traditional park users. We will partner with a variety of non-profits, individuals and other governmental agencies to better serve young people and new audiences. Through NPS management and partnerships, we will protect scenery, water quality and other resources that led to inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The Riverway will develop its staff by effective training and work assignments coupled with a lean, productive organizational structure to exemplify professional excellence.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Tom Bradley

Site: SACN

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

High water quality significantly affects visitor health and safety and the quality of Riverway recreational experiences (swimming, boating, boat-in camping, fishing and other water-related opportunities). By addressing water quality declines, we will ensure continued enjoyment of these recreational activities and protect visitor health and safety.

Visiting a historic hand cut log cabin in a scenic setting above the river provides for enjoyment and education. This will be a comfortable place for people to stay (Artist-in-Residence and researchers/volunteers) and for visitors to enjoy. Once the rehabilitation is completed, there will not be any pests and there will be safe drinking water.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SACN

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

This is a 1920's era cabin which is in poor condition from a cultural resource and facilities standpoint. It will be rehabilitated to good condition which will then allow us to develop an Artist-in-Residence program. This is also viewed favorably by the River Valley communities which wish to use linkages to the arts as a way to strengthen their economic base. There are currently four National Register Eligible structures in the park; all in poor condition. This will be the first structure in the park to be upgraded to good condition.

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☒ Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

Rehabilitation of the cabin involves restoration of electric power to the cabin and updating electrical wiring system to code. A new septic system and a new well will be installed. The structure will be treated for pests and remodeling of the kitchen and bathroom will occur. These updates will improve the asset to an acceptable condition, per the Facility Condition Index.

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☒ Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

Water quality is one of the vital signs identified for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and, through the Great Lakes I&M Network, SACN has initiated routine water quality monitoring. Water quality is important to preservation of the Riverway's diverse mussel population, including threatened and endangered species and to overall ecological health of the Riverway. Research indicates declines in water quality from nutrient and sediment loading. This problem can only be addressed by working with organizations throughout the watershed, to reduce inputs from tributaries. This project will make available a Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT model) for use throughout the watershed. The model will help target sources of nutrient and sediment loading and guide application of best management practices.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SACN

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Scientists at the St. Croix Watershed Research Station have worked for several years to modify and correct elements of a Soil and Water Assessment Tool first developed for use in Texas. The model has been adjusted to recognize conditions in the St. Croix Basin and has been tested and fine-tuned on one St. Croix tributary. Application of this model demonstrates NPS's leadership in reaching beyond the Riverway boundary to address issues affect the river's water quality.

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Site: SACN

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Encourage children to be future conservationists.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Visitors will be able to see and enter a historic structure that blends well with its natural setting and does not have a huge imprint on the land. Children will be inspired by spending time at a scenic natural setting with access to the river as well as natural structures in order to learn about the history and habitat of the Riverway. In this way, they will come to value the creative spirit inspired by such places.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SACN

EDUCATION

☒ Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Once rehabilitated, this historic cabin will be used to promote learning through programming efforts, Artist-in-Residence, and housing for researchers and/or volunteers. Visitors will learn about the time period when the cabin was built and also be able to connect with the scenic beauty of the Riverway. Through the Artist-in-Residence program visitors will be able to admire the creative spirit inspired by such places.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SACN

EDUCATION

☒ Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

☒ Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

For those visitors that have a hard time relating to a natural world, historic structures provide a human link and people feel secure around buildings. Visitors can reach out and explore the natural setting and learn about important parts of the history of Riverway and how it is being preserved. This historic cabin will be more visible to the public once it has been rehabilitated.

Rehabilitation of this 1920's vernacular structure which is set along a beautiful Namekagon River bluff will help visitors better understand both the cultural and natural resources of the Riverway.

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